

## **2003 EMS-Related Bills Introduced in Congress**

### **S171/HR1301 Medicare Ambulance Payment Reform Act of 2003**

- Sets the Medicare ambulance fee schedule at the national average cost
- Provides higher payments for rural ambulance runs than urban ones
- Requires CMS to adopt condition coding system

### **Sx/HRx Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act of 2003**

- Eliminates the "35 mile isolation test" for Critical Access Hospitals to be cost-reimbursed for ambulance service
- S172 and HR937 also contains this provision

### **S-/HR1475 The Private Firefighter, Ambulance Crew, and Immediate Responder Fairness Act of 2003**

- Extends public safety officer death benefits to medics and certain other ambulance service personnel employed by either a public or private ambulance service provider

### **S-/HR937 Rural Community Hospital Assistance Act of 2003**

- Provides cost-based plus ambulance reimbursement for rural hospitals of 25-50 beds that operate ambulance services

### **S315(S466)/HRx First Responders Partnership Grant Act of 2003**

- \$4B in homeland security and terrorism grants
- Eligible entities include public and private
- Eligible entities include ambulance service

### **Senate/House Letters to Fund Rural EMS Grants Authorized Last Year**

- Senator Conrad (et. al.) letter sent 4-8-03
- Congressman Kennedy (et. al.) scheduled for 4-11-03